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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DUCK REPORTS CONTINUE TO BE PESSIMISTIC

The pessimistic note of "very few ducks seen" continues to dominate the reports on the present season's duck flight as received weekly by the Fish and Wildlife Service from its field staff of game management agents, Albert M. Day, Director of the Service, declared today (December 20, 1946).

Highlights from the latest series of reports sent in by the Service's trained observers are as follows:

Iowa, "The duck hunting in Iowa has been extremely poor since the first week of the open season. A very good flight of geese passed through Iowa this year and quite a number of blue, snow, and Canada geese stopped off at a number of points."

Kansas, Topeka, "Not many ducks in this area."

Maryland, Savannah Lakes, "Observed many pintails and black ducks." Kennedyville, Galena, Sassafras River, "Geese observed one-third the supply of last season on opening day." Chester River northward to include Susquehanna Flats, "Observed a total of 25,000 ducks the majority of which were canvas-backs. Observed but 3,500 Canada geese. These figures are 75 percent below normal."

Virginia, Henrico County, James River, "Large number of geese but very few ducks."

Minnesota, Itasca County, "Very few ducks left in this area but a few golden-eyes still around."

Kentucky, "Ducks are very scarce over the Ohio valley this week."

Tennessee, West Sandy near Paris, "there are very few ducks in this area."

Michigan, "This has been the warmest hunting season we have experienced and while we had no cold weather to influence the birds, we did not have any birds to be influenced."

North Dakota, "Observed about 5,000 ducks on Missouri River south of Bismark."

Colorado, "At present I would judge there are in excess of a half million ducks feeding in the Platte Valley and in the adjoining reservoirs adjacent to the area from Barr Lake to Greeley."

Arkansas, "Hunting conditions are below normal in White River Bottoms, ducks badly scattered, decrease in ducks from last year, best hunting clubs having trouble obtaining limits."

Texas, Green and Hall Lakes, Chocolate Bayou, "Pintails rafted in marshes for miles."

North Carolina, "Most of the hunters are leaving Currituck Sound as they say there is not enough game there to justify hunting. Nearly all the hunters I talked to this week said the season should be closed if the birds were as scarce every where as they are in this section."

Alabama, Mobile and Baldwin Counties, "Comparing numbers of waterfowl present at this period with last season there is a decrease of about 25 percent."

Illinois, Horse Shoe Lake, "Believe goose population to be 28,300."

Oregon, Smith River Flats, Lake Earl, Rogue River, and Coos Bay, "Very few ducks along coast and on bays. Several flocks of geese resting on grassy covered offshore rocks." Winchester Bay, Yaquina Bay, and Alsea Bay, "Few ducks seen, mostly pintails."

South Carolina, Flyway Biologist Harold Peters, on a two hour flight from Charleston, S. C., over coastal points, saw the following numbers of ducks: Bull's Island, 7,000; Cape Isle, 500; Murphy Island, 4,200; Cedar Island, 800; South Island, 7,000; other areas, 600. Total about 20,100 ducks plus 4,000 coots. Ducks only in fair numbers.

New York, Pine Neck, L. I., "Waterfowl very scarce, and very few hunters."

Florida, "To say that ducks are scarce is to put the situation mildly."

Washington, Dungeness and Port Angeles, "More ducks present now than were here last year at same time."

Michigan, Traverse City, "Geese reported more plentiful while ducks were scarce." Saginaw Marshes, "Very few ducks seen."

Kansas, Cheyenne Bottoms, "Not much water, very few ducks."

Kentucky, Ohio river below Evansville, Ind., "Found no duck hunters and only saw a bare sprinkle of ducks."

Louisiana, Catahoula Lake, "Very few ducks observed and only few hunters on the lake." "Ducks are exceptionally scarce in north central Louisiana with only a moderate concentration in southwest Louisiana."

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